

MOHAMED BOUROUISSA

FRANÇOIS MORELLET

Special project

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Kamel Mennour is proud to be showing together for the first time the work of François Morellet (b. 1926, d. 2016, Cholet) and Mohamed Bourouissa (b. 1978, Blida). This special project is just one instance of the gallery's commitment to intergenerational dialogue.

François Morellet, a pioneer of French minimalism, was one of the figureheads of the renewal of geometric abstraction in the second half of the twentieth century. With his death in 2016, this iconic figure of the artworld left behind a rich and facetious body of work. For the Amory Show, a selection of his works is being presented retracing his career in the avant-garde from the 1970s through to the 2010s. Reflecting the diverse projects that François Morellet conceived at the gallery between 2009 and 2014 (*Deep Dark Light Blue and Neons by Accident, François Morellet : C'est n'importe quoi ?*), this showing is also a foretaste of the group exhibition dedicated to him and American artists, curated by Béatrice Gross, to take place this spring in our gallery spaces at 47 Rue Saint-André des arts and 6 Rue du Pont de Lodi, in Paris' sixth arrondissement.

Also on show for this project is a selection of previously unexhibited work from Mohamed Bourouissa's *Urban Riders* project. This project, begun in 2013 as part of an immersive residence in the horse-riding community of Fletcher Street in Philadelphia, includes films, drawings, costumes, and sculptures. The works presented at the stand come from a series called *The Hood*. They are the result of an experimental process of photographic transfer printing onto segments of bodywork, offering up fragments of urban life where horses and cars come together. After showings at the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), the Haus der Kunst (Munich), the Studio Museum (Harlem), and Basis (Frankfurt-am-Main), there will be a major exhibition of *Urban Riders* this summer in Philadelphia, at the Barnes Foundation, following an initiative of Sylvie Patry's.

Born in 1978, Mohamed Bourouissa lives in Paris. His work has been exhibited in France and abroad in solo shows—De School, Amsterdam; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; basis, Frankfurt-am-Main; Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO); Haus der Kunst, Munich; Frac Franche-Comté, Besançon; MAXXI Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome; SCAD Savannah College of Arts and Design; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki—as well as in group exhibitions: Studio Museum, Harlem; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei; Le Bal, Paris; KARST, Plymouth; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt-am-Main; Smithsonian - National Museum of African Art, Washington; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Istanbul Museum of Modern Art; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Palazzo Grassi-François Pinault Foundation, Venice. There will be a solo exhibition of his work in June 2017 at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, in the US.

Born in 1926 and deceased in 2016 in Cholet in France's Loire region, François Morellet has been an internationally recognised artist since the 1970s. Throughout his lifetime, he executed numerous public and private commissions in France and abroad, including a permanent intervention into the Lefuel Staircase at the Louvre Museum in 2010, entitled *L'esprit d'escalier*. His work has been widely exhibited, including at the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Musée d'Orsay, the Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume, the Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, S.M.A.K. in Gand, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Genève, documenta in Kassel, the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Baden-Baden, the Museum Ritter de Waldenbuch, the Modern Art Oxford, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the Pérez Art Museum Miami, and MoMA in New York.